



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

July 11, 2007, 5:30pm

Contacts: Michelle Fidler (520) 733-5136, cell (520) 400-2932
Recorded Fire Information (520) 733-5150

Spud Cabin Fire Ignited By Lightning in Saguaro National Park's Rincon Mountains

The Spud Cabin Fire was ignited by lightning on the evening of Tuesday, July 10th. The fire was first reported in the Rincon Mountains at approximately 10 am on Wednesday, July 11th, during an aerial reconnaissance flight. The Spud Cabin Fire is located approximately ¼ mile northwest of Spud Rock Camp, around the 8,000 foot elevation level. It is burning in ponderosa pine. The fire is located in an area that has burned numerous times in recent history, leading to reduced fuel loads. The general area of the fire received some precipitation on Tuesday evening. The fire was creeping and smoldering during an additional reconnaissance, flown mid-day on Wednesday. Firefighters estimated the fire to be approximately ½ acre in size. The fire is in monitor status at this time, due to the remote location of the fire, the lack of available suppression resources, safety considerations due to steep terrain and additional lightning in the forecast, and the prediction of additional precipitation which may help extinguish the fire. Values to be protected include Mexican Spotted Owl habitat. Firefighters will continue to monitor the fire and will re-evaluate the need for direct suppression action if conditions change or if the area does not receive rain, as anticipated. The fire is located in the vicinity of the Spud Rock Camp and the Turkey Creek Trail; however no closures have been implemented at this time.

The Cow Head Fire is 100% contained as of 4pm on July 7th and remains in monitor status. This 3.5 acre fire was ignited by lightning on July 6th. No smoke was visible as 1pm on Wednesday, July 11, 2007.

These incidents demonstrate that although the area is beginning to receive monsoon moisture, conditions are such that fuels may still be receptive to ignition sources. Park officials remind visitors that fire restrictions remain in place. Fires are prohibited, except in developed picnic areas or backcountry campsites. Smoking is permitted only within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is free of flammable materials. Use and possession of fireworks is prohibited year-round.

For additional information and fire updates, call the Park's fire information hotline at (520) 733-5150 or visit www.nps.gov/sagu.

07-32